

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Field Service Branch
State College, New Mexico
February 8, 1946

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

JUN 19 1946

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 176

AAA FARM NEWS

HUNGRY PEOPLE NEED OUR WHEAT

Producers of wheat -- "the staff of life" -- are being urged by the Government to move all the wheat that they have for sale to market just as rapidly as possible. The need for wheat to feed the peoples of war-torn countries is far above the available world supply. The hungry people in these countries need every bushel of wheat that can be shipped to them.

With stocks in coastal areas and at seaports already heavily drawn on, export supplies must come chiefly from inland country points in so-called "surplus" wheat producing States. The majority of this area is west of the Mississippi River, largely in the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas and the Pacific Northwest. If the Nation is to give maximum assistance in relieving the desperate hunger that threatens the lives of many people in other lands, farmers must move their wheat to market, for 369 million of the 690 million bushels of U. S. wheat stocks on the first of the year were still on farms.

AAA COMMITTEEMEN SAY "SWEEP OUT THE BINS"

In wheat areas, the locally elected farmer-committeemen of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency are urging their neighbors to "sweep out their wheat bins" to feed starving people and to improve the marketing situation for their own future harvests. Along with the appeal to wheat farmers to "help others by helping themselves", the farmer-committeemen are asking farmers to keep in touch with their local elevators so that they can move the grain just as soon as local transportation permits.

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON MILK PRODUCTION

The Government wants dairymen to continue high production of milk and has stated a policy of maintaining the general level of income returns to milk producers during this year at about the same level as in 1945.

Stabilization Administrator John C. Collet has advised that the returns will be maintained either by continuation of the subsidy payments or by increases in price ceilings if the subsidies are removed or reduced. He has announced that dairy production payments -- made directly to producers to hold-the-line on retail prices -- will be continued beyond March 31 until at least June 30, with rates for the April-June period to be announced soon. President Truman has asked Congress to authorize the payment of food subsidies after June 30 if they are still necessary to prevent runaway inflation. Subsidies on dairy products amounted to 16 percent of the total cash income of these producers during 1945 with dairy production payments alone making up nearly 14 percent of the income.

CAUTIONS FARMERS TO CONSERVE FEED

With feed supplies short, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson urges farmers to feed less grain to hogs and beef cattle, cull poultry flocks, raise fewer chickens and turkeys this year, maintain milk production, and above all, market farm animals when they are ready for market.

"If we do not begin now to husband our reduced supplies of feed, it won't be long until livestock is forced off the farms in many areas for lack of feed," the Secretary said. "....We can get by if---and I repeat IF---all farmers and feeders do the things that are necessary."

AAA FARMER COMMITTEES DO MORE; SPEND LESS

The duties and responsibility of AAA farmer-committeemen have increased in recent years while expenses of county associations have decreased.

This fact is pointed out in the annual report of W. E. Dodd, Director of the PMA Field Service Branch, which handles AAA programs. "In the fiscal year 1939-40, county committees and offices administered 10 separate parts of AAA and related programs at a cost of 45.5 million dollars," the report points out. "During the 1944-45 year, however, county committees administered 21 separate parts of the farm program at a cost estimated at 27.3 million dollars."

FARM NEWS SHORTS

The USDA urges that any wheat fed to livestock be used as efficiently as possible because of the need that hungry people in war-torn countries have for that same wheat.